AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete the paragraph on page 18, lines 3 to13 and replace it with the following paragraph:

--To equalize the levels of template cDNAs in the samples, the expression levels of canine GAPDH gene levels were determined as a control gene for gene expression, and cDNA levels in the samples were equalized on the basis of the levels. For canine GADPH gene in each sample, a reaction solution supplemented with primers specific to the GADPH gene (sense primer 5'-CTCTTTGCTGCCATTTCTGGAAT-3 (SEQ ID NO: 7), reverse primer 5'-TCTATTGGTGAAGATTCCTG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 20)) and a thermostable DNA polymerase (rTaq) was subjected to heat denaturation at 94°C for 5 minutes, followed by 26 cycles of PCR under conditions of 94°C for 30 seconds, 55°C for 30 seconds, and 72°C for 1 minute (elongation reaction 7 minutes) (TaKaRa Taq, TaKaRa). The genes amplified by the PCR reactions were electrophoresed on a 2%-agarose gel, and the gel was stained with ethidium bromide and then observed under irradiation with an ultraviolet ray.--